of our land area is rapidly turning into desert and also that 70 per cent of all available water is polluted;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard; and

(c) what are the other environmental findings in the report and the steps being taken in that context?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have identified the various environmental problems and are taking steps to solve them.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CXL, Annexure No. 65]

Review of Working of Government Departments

*256. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government recently undertook an exercise to review the functions of various Government departments with a view to streamline the working and avoid duplicacy of work; and

(b) if so, the results of such an exercise and the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Reviews toward rationalisation and further streamlining of the functioning of government departments is a continuing process. Illustrative lists of some recent steps taken in this direction were laid on the Table of the House on 6-11-86 in reply to Unstarred Question No. 322.

Briefcase Containing Bomb like Device in a DTC Bus

*257. SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 408 given in the Rajya Sabha on 6th November, 1986 and state what steps are being taken to prevent the recurrence of such incidents as happened on 1st September, 1986 in Delhi where a briefcase containing a bomb-like device was found in a D.T.C. bus?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): Steps like increased foot and mobile patrolling, intensive checking of vulnerable places, posting pickets at strategic point, vigilance at crowded places, surprise checking of vehicles, strengthening of border checkposts and holding of inter-State/inter-district meetings to exchange information about the movements of extremists, have been taken. Publicity is made through the media cautioning the people not to pick up unclaimed objects and t inform the police if they come across any unclaimed suspicious object.

Clearance of Irrigation Projects of Tamil Nadu pending with the Planning Commission

*258. SHRI T. R. BALU:
SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of minor and major irrigation projects of Tamil Nadu presently pending with the Planning Commission;

(b) date on which each report of these projects have been submitted;

(c) at what stage each project is pending for clearance; and

(d) what steps are being taken to clear these projects, expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No irrigation project of Tamil Nadu is presently pending for action, with Planning Commission. However, one medium scheme, viz. modernisation of Ananthanar Channel is awaiting action from State Government, for clearance from Planning Commission.

(b) It was received in the Planning Commission for clearance on 14th May, 1986.

(c) and (d) The project has been techno-economically found viable by the Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission, subject to certain conditions. The State Government has been requested for early compliance of these conditions. The project would be cleared immediately on getting the necessary compliance report.

समानान्तर डाक सेवाएं

*259. **श्री राधा किशन मालवीय :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ गैर-सरकारी संगठनों एवं व्यक्तियों द्वारा देश में समानान्तर डाक सेवायें चलायी जा रही हैं ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इन सेवाओं को रोकने के लिये क्या कदम उठाये हैं ?

संचार मंत्री (श्री अर्जुन सिंह) : (क) कुछ निजी संगठनों/व्यक्तियों द्वारा समानान्तर डाक सेवायें चलाये जाने के मामले विभाग की जानकारी में आये हैं।

(ख) प्राइवेट एजेंसियों द्वारा पत्रों को लाना-ले जाना भारतीय डाक घर अधिनियम की धारा 4 का उल्लघंन करना है। जब कभी उपर्युक्त धारा के उल्लघंन की बात ध्यान में आती है, तो भारतीय डाकघर नियम की व्यवस्थाओं के तहत आवश्यक कार्रवाई की जाती है। भारतीय डाकघर (संशोधन) विधेयक, 1986 में निवारक उपाय के बतौर कठोर दंड देने का प्रस्ताव किया गया है।

Maintenance of Srinagar Leh Highway

*260. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plans have been formulated to put the Srinagar Leh highway in working condition; and

(b) what incentives are being provided to the personnel of Border Roads Organisation and the drivers of the Army Service Corps for continued maintenance of the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Srinagar-Leh road is in traffic-worthy condition. However, some sectors on this road remain closed to traffic during winter due to heavy snow-fall.

(b) Personnel of Border Roads Organisation are provided with the following facilities, free of charge:—

(1) ration,

(2) single accommodation,

(3) clothing,

(4) Medical treatment,

(5) Special Compensatory allowance at specified rates in specified areas;

(6) airlift in IAC flights from Leh to Chandigarh, while proceeding on and returning from leave, during winter months.

They are also eligible for meritorious service gallantry awards.

Drivers of Army Service Corps are not involved in the maintenance of roads.